

in 1978. She has been a parent/student advocate, a youth mentor, Etiquette Institute volunteer and has served on PUSD's Youth Motivational Task Force—in fact, she has volunteered at nearly all of PUSD's elementary, middle and high schools. Additionally, Debra has volunteered for South Pasadena High School, serving as a swim/track team motivator and the historian for the Parent Teacher Student Association.

In 1992, Debra founded SMILE Productions Inc., a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to supporting, motivating, investing, loving and educating youth. Her main goal is to help youth fulfill their dreams and to express themselves in creative ways through poetry, music, drama and dance, and to teach them basic etiquette, oral communication, job grooming, interviewing skills and self-esteem. Ms. Johnson also produces her own SMILE cable television talk show.

Debra is active in numerous organizations, including the Altadena Branch of the NAACP, Black Child Development Institute Inc. Pasadena, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, Rosemary Children's Services, HearZero Deaf Advocates, Los Angeles County Probation Department's Operation Read, NewCo Youth Pasadena, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church, where she teaches Sunday School.

In addition to her service to the community, Debra attends Pasadena City College, working to obtain her degree in forensic social work and public relations. She and her husband Landy reside in Altadena and together they have five children and four grandchildren.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Debra A. Johnson. The entire community joins me in thanking Debra for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

HONORING THE 50-YEAR MINISTRY OF KERMIT MCGREGOR

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on March 12, the First Baptist Church of Starkville celebrated Dr. Kermit McGregor's 50 years in the ministry. Fifty years in service to any calling is noteworthy, but it is my particular pleasure to honor him for his decades of dedication to God.

Dr. McGregor is currently serving as the transitional pastor in Starkville, but he has been a blessing to many congregations across Mississippi. Since beginning the ministry at age 16—the same year he and his wife Phyllis were married—he has preached the Gospel in Pontotoc, Dumas, Smithdale, New Albany, Bruce, Winona, Hattiesburg, Clinton, Mendenhall and now in Starkville. Additionally, he has served as director of public relations at the Baptist Children's Village in Clinton, and as a trustee and chairman of the Board of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.

A graduate of Blue Mountain College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Wil-

liam Carey College, Dr. McGregor says he works today just as hard as he did before his "retirement" 6 years ago. But he maintains that in his calling, one never actually retires.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. McGregor has over the years encountered several major heart attacks and has even been clinically dead for a short amount of time. But he persevered and lives now following a heart transplant over 10 years ago. I believe his current health, his longevity, his sharpness of mind and his continued service to God and man comes not from his physical heart, but from his heart for God which never ceased beating in the past 50 years.

A TRIBUTE TO JOAN EASTMOND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Joan Eastmond who has dedicated her life to strengthening our educational system and improving her community.

Joan was born the youngest of 6 children into the Eastmond family and long time member of Bedford-Stuyvesant's royalty. The Eastmond family's record of community service had a profound influence on her development and ultimately, her achievements. The birth of her son, Brian, was noted by Essence Magazine.

She has always been committed to public service. As a teen she got involved with NAACP Youth Committee. She also participated in the School Integration Movement, led by her former minister, the late Dr. Milton Galamison (Siloam Presbyterian Church). She also had a unique role as a teacher. She struggled against the wishes of the prejudiced school system and the biases of the UFT. Her classroom at JHS 271 in the late 1960s was a model of "africentricism" and educational liberation.

A Training Coordinator of AFRAM Associates, she nurtured her decision-making role of parents on 9 different sites, public and private, located in 5 different States and the District of Columbia. She co-developed with Preston Wilcox and the late Kenneth W. Haskins, a tested and copyrighted educational model: Parent Implementation (Decision-Making) in Education. She also is the author of a major AFRAM Publication: The HAMPTON Experiences.

Currently employed at the Fort Greene Senior Citizens Center where she combines a variety of services for senior citizens, youth and graduate students (Lincoln University of Human Services Program), into a simulated social mission.

Joan is best known for the services she provides to the community as Joan has never forgotten where she came from. While serving "at-risk" youth at Bed-Stuy Restoration, her commitment to others became quite evident. She did not approach these youth as potential problems. Instead, she worked to convince them that they were in fact, "diamonds in the rough."

Mr. Speaker, Joan Eastmond has been a leader in her community through her efforts to improve our educational system and serve those in need. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I

urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. JOEL O. SWANSON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County, and indeed the entire State of Alabama, recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Joel O. Swanson was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life. A native of Mobile, Alabama, Mr. Swanson moved at an early age to Port Arthur, Texas, with his father and mother, Captain and Mrs. Joel Arvid Swanson. In 1951, he and his family moved back to Mobile and established the advertising department for a local supermarket chain, Delchamps. Over the next four decades, he worked tirelessly to continue Delchamps' growth in the Mobile area, serving as advertising manager, corporate secretary, and executive vice president. He continued to work in the family business until his retirement in 1991.

In the midst of his intense professional schedule, Mr. Swanson always found time to serve with many community organizations and on several boards of directors. He served as president of the boards for the Mobile Mental Health Association, the Lions Club of Mobile, the Mobile Opera, and Symphony Concerts of Mobile. Additionally, he was a member of the Lions Club of Mobile and took an active role in the Museum of Mobile Board and the Friends of the Library.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout South Alabama. Mr. Swanson will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 61 years, Marilyn Morris Swanson; his children, Jan Swanson, Joel Craig Swanson, and Kirk Swanson; and one granddaughter—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING MR. LARRY TEAGUE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Larry Teague, Mayor of Mabank, Texas for his longtime support of agriculture in and around Mabank, Texas. Mr. Teague is a recipient of the Woodrow Walker Award from the Henderson County Livestock Show Association, for which he has served as a buyer for 25 years. In addition, Mr. Teague has also been a buyer for the Kaufman County Junior Livestock Show and a member and officer of the Mabank Ag Booster Club.

A father to three children, Randy, Rachelle, and Robby, Mr. Teague married his wife, Linda Carter, in June of 1972. Along with his agricultural activities, Mr. Teague is a member, deacon, and trustee at the First Baptist Church in Mabank. He is the president of

Mabank Economic Development, and a supporter of a number of charitable programs including Kids Across America, the Special Olympics, and the Make a Wish Foundation.

As a father, a husband, a devout churchgoer, and a community leader, Mr. Larry Teague has embodied the values of family, faith, and hard work that lie at the core of American society. As his representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor him today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
"A GIRL'S PLACE" IN FAIR-
FIELD, CA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the March 24, 2005 dedication of "A Girl's Place," the Fairfield Facility of the Girl Scout Council of Napa-Solano.

This facility symbolizes a commitment from the community to ensuring that girls have a place to feel safe and to call their own. In June 1931, the residents of the City of Fairfield and Solano County came together to dedicate a building for the Girl Scouts of their community. Today, 75 years later, they have joined together again to reaffirm their pledge to the Girl Scouts and to dedicate a new facility. This new building replaces the old, which made way for modernization and offers the community hope and vision for the future.

"A Girl's" Place" will stand as an icon in the community, offering a safe haven for girls ages 5–17 and a place for adults who give freely of their time and love to come together to gain knowledge of our ever-changing young women.

The Girl Scouts of Napa-Solano serve 4,500 girls and 1,300 adult volunteers; nearly 1 in every 10 girls is a Girl Scout. Today Girl Scouts are reaching out into the community to provide a solid foundation for every girl, everywhere. Girls are participating in Girl Scouting in homes, schools, boys and girls clubs, juvenile halls, low-income housing complexes, emergency women's shelters, foster care programs, and churches. Girl Scouting helps girls mold their values and teaches self-confidence, leadership, teamwork and pride in her community. This collaboration inspires us all.

As the Girl Scouts' Honorary Congressional Co-Troop Leader, I am honored to recognize "A Girls' Place" as a proud addition to our community and I look forward to the generations of strong women who will spring from its steps.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF INCREASED HOMEOWNERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAMS, FAIR LENDING LAWS, AND FAIR HOUSING LAWS IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that supports the goal of increased homeownership in the United States and recognizes the importance of homeownership programs, fair lending laws, and fair housing laws in achieving those goals.

This resolution specifically urges the President to designate April 2005 as National Fair Housing Month. It also urges the House of Representatives to recommit itself to making fair housing and homeownership a legislative priority in the 109th Congress.

We owe it to our constituents and the American people to support first-time homeownership programs, which help families who have never owned a home experience the benefits of home ownership.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution contains the importance of first-time homeownership, combating disparities in minority home ownership, and fighting the scourge of predatory lending. As the land of opportunity, we must ensure that all U.S. citizens are given a fair opportunity to achieve the American Dream, a significant component of which is homeownership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. As Members of Congress, it is our moral responsibility to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to purchase a home, no matter their ethnicity, race, or religion. I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this promising resolution forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY AND 50TH YEAR AS RABBI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Rabbi Arthur Schneier, a tireless public servant, friend to all New Yorkers and one of our Nation's foremost spiritual leaders. On Sunday, March 20, 2005, Rabbi Schneier will celebrate his 75th birthday and 50th year as Rabbi at a dinner benefitting the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Center for International Affairs at Yeshiva University, which was established in 2004 to promote international peace and the exchange of ideas across cultural divides.

As a young man, Rabbi Schneier was a resident of Nazi-occupied Bucharest, where he experienced firsthand the depths of mankind's capacity for evil. Throughout his distinguished

career, Rabbi Schneier has turned his experience as a Holocaust survivor into an incredible drive to stamp out hatred and intolerance throughout the world. In 1965, Rabbi Schneier founded the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, which works to foster religious freedom and human rights and to end ethnic conflicts.

During the long and bloody war in the former Yugoslavia, Rabbi Schneier convened the Religious Summit on the Former Yugoslavia in Switzerland and the Conflict Resolution Conference in Vienna, Austria, mobilizing religious leaders to help end the ethnic violence plaguing the region. Additionally, in Sarajevo, Rabbi Schneier met with top government and religious leaders to promote healing and conciliation among the Serbian Orthodox, Muslim, Catholic and Jewish communities.

Rabbi Schneier has also served our Nation in an official capacity as an Alternate U.S. Representative to the U.N. General Assembly.

Additionally, as Chairman of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, Rabbi Schneier was one of three American religious leaders appointed by President Bill Clinton to initiate a dialogue on religious freedom with Chinese President Jiang Zemin. Recently, Rabbi Schneier was a member of the U.S. delegation to the Stockholm International Forum for the Prevention of Genocide.

Rabbi Schneier's accomplishments here at home have been equally impressive. He is the Senior Rabbi of the Park East Synagogue, established in 1890 to serve the Jewish community of the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Centered in the heart of the largest Jewish population outside of Israel, the Synagogue has expanded significantly under Rabbi Schneier's leadership and is an invaluable part of New York City's spiritual and cultural life. Additionally, Rabbi Schneier, recognizing the growing desire among the American Jewish community to provide their children with a strong Jewish education, initiated and led a successful effort to establish a Jewish day school in New York. In 1977, both the Minks Cultural Center and the Park East Day School opened, furthering the Synagogue's ability to meet the Upper East Side's educational and social needs.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Rabbi Arthur Schneier and wishing him a wonderful 75th birthday celebration. Rabbi Schneier's dedication to tolerance and international peace serves as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ATASCOSA COUNTY COMMISSIONER WELDON P. CUDE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Commissioner Weldon P. Cude.

A seventh generation Atascosa resident, Mr. Cude started his career as a Texas water well driller in 1984. In 1988 he became Pleasanton's "Young Citizen of the Year," and later became the youngest person elected as an Atascosa County Commissioner.